

**Sharon, Scott**

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**From:** Sypniewski, Bruce  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 03, 2015 7:40 AM  
**To:** R5 ALL EPA; R5 ALL NON-EPA  
**Subject:** Regional Roundup

### **EJSCREEN Crash Course**

Environmental Justice is at the heart of EPA's mission. Make it part of your work with the new EJSCREEN tool. This tool is now public, so you will want to use it to demonstrate your consideration of environmental justice in your work. Attend one of these interactive sessions that enables you to effectively use the EJSCREEN tool and interpret results. Register on TMS, keyword EJSCREEN. If you would like reasonable accommodations, please contact your first line supervisor.

**November 5th      Lake Huron Room 1-3 pm**

**Or**

**November 10th      Illinois Room      1-3pm**

### **GIS Day Celebration**

The Region will be celebrating GIS Day on **Wednesday, November 18 from 1-4pm in the GIS EOC (12th floor, room R1236)**. GIS Day is an international event devoted to recognizing the contributions geographic information systems (GIS) technology makes to our daily lives. At EPA, we use GIS to help meet our mission goals. Come hear about: the latest ORD analysis tools, how to build a web map, geospatial screening tools, and viewing high resolution imagery. There will be formal presentations from 1-2pm and informal demonstrations from 2-4pm. Stop in any time, there will be door prizes! Questions about GIS Day can be directed to Paisly Kauth: [kauth.paisly@epa.gov](mailto:kauth.paisly@epa.gov), 312-353-4774

### **Employee Express Access**

Employee Express (EEX) is hosted by Office of Personnel Management for nearly all Federal Employees except Department of Defense. EPA does not have a dedicated Employee Express Help Desk (the EEX Help Desk is managed by OPM), but in urgent situations employees can email [HRPayHelp@epa.gov](mailto:HRPayHelp@epa.gov) or call 866-411-4372, Option 2 for assistance. EPA has been in constant communication with the EEX Help Desk resolving urgent employee access and system issues that have been brought to the attention of EPA's internal help desk.

You may have seen a couple of Region wide emails concerning the upgrade to the EEX system. The upgrade should have been transparent to employees with little downtime. Once relaunched the system would have a new look. However, Tuesday when the system was released, employees discovered that they could not log in nor could they reset their security passwords. The EEX Help Desk was inundated with phone calls for assistance that eventually crashed their phone system. We heard back from EEX 10/29/2015 that they are getting close to having the phone issues resolved.

### ***If you need help accessing Employee Express:***

Call the Employee Express Help Desk at 888- 353-9450 or 478-757-3030, which is available Monday through Friday between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. ET. At other times, a message may be left and someone from the Help Desk will return your call. You may also contact the Help Desk via e-mail at [EEXHELP@OPM.GOV](mailto:EEXHELP@OPM.GOV) Please include your full name, your agency's name, your phone number and a brief description of your problem in your message.

***If you have questions concerning human resource, leave or payroll or if you have been unsuccessful in contacting Employee Express directly then you need:***

EPA's One Stop HR and Payroll Help Desk at 1-866-411-4372, opt 2; or email [HRPayHelp@epa.gov](mailto:HRPayHelp@epa.gov)

### **Skills Marketplace "Scoop"**

**This is the final Skills Marketplace "Scoop".** With the launch of the weekly EPA newsletter, HQ will now move from the monthly Scoop format to include Skills Marketplace related items in many of the editions of the weekly EPA newsletter (newsletter title coming soon).

Click on the following link to read the "Scoop":

<http://intranet.epa.gov/skillsmarketplace/scoop/october2015.html>

### **Variable Height Desks and Headsets**

The variable height desks and headsets have arrived and will be distributed per the terms of the signed 10/23/14 Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between AFGE and R5 (click here to view the MOA: [http://www.r5intra.epa.gov/Div/RMD/HCB/L&ER/PDF/MOA\\_HeadSets.pdf](http://www.r5intra.epa.gov/Div/RMD/HCB/L&ER/PDF/MOA_HeadSets.pdf)). Each Division/Office has received one desk, one wired headset and one wireless headset so that individuals can view the items. Per the MOA, 60% of the desks and headsets will be distributed based on seniority as determined by an employee's service computation date. The remaining 40% will be distributed through a lottery. Each Division/Office will be responsible for distributing and tracking these items. Please contact your Deputy Division Director if you have any questions regarding the distribution of these items or wish to see them.

### **LGBT Civil Rights Cultural Awareness Announcement**

Anyone wanting to receive a copy of the slide presentation from last week's LGBT Cultural Awareness Announcement, please contact Florine Matthews. Also, please fill out an evaluation form for the presentation if you participated in the event. Thank you.

### **FY16 Regional Research Partnership Program**

EPA's Office of Research and Development (ORD) has announced the call for applications for the FY16 Regional Research Partnership Program. This program provides short-term training opportunities of up to six months for regional technical staff to travel to ORD labs/centers and work with ORD scientists on projects that are regional priorities. ORD will support the participation of up to ten regional staff in FY 2016. For additional information about the program, including application instructions and examples of recently completed projects, please visit the intranet site: <http://intranet.ord.epa.gov/science/regional-science/r2p2>. Nomination packages are due December 15, 2015.

Questions? Please contact Carole Braverman ([braverman.carole@epa.gov](mailto:braverman.carole@epa.gov) or 3-7359) for more information.

### **FEGLI**

Several staff have reported receiving e-mails or phone calls from private financial services or retirement counseling companies wanting to talk to you about the Federal Employees' Group Life Insurance Program (FEGLI). OPM has announced that there will be a FEGLI open season during September 2016. You can find out more information from the Office of Personnel Management on the planned FEGLI open season here <http://blogs.fedsmith.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/2016FEGLIOpenSeason.pdf>. As you may be aware, FEGLI open seasons are rare. If you have questions about your benefits, you are welcome to contact the benefits specialists/retirement counselors at 513-569-7699.

